

STATE INTERAGENCY COUNCIL (SIAC)

December Meeting Summary



Date | time December 15, 2021 | 10:00 a.m. | **Meeting Location** virtually via Zoom

Meeting called to order by Ivanora Alexander, Executive Director of Office for Children with Special Health Care Needs & SIAC Chair

WELCOME, INTRODUCTIONS & UPDATES

Ivanora Alexander, Executive Director of Office for Children with Special Health Care Needs (OCSHCN) and SIAC Chair, welcomed members, alternates, and guests to the meeting, then called the meeting to order.

BUSINESS ITEMS

Review of November Meeting Summary

William Heffron made a motion to approve. **Judy Theriot** – second to the motion. Motion carried.

Cumberland Valley RIAC Parent Alternate

SIAC Chair Alexander informed members that Cumberland Valley RIAC had submitted an application for Parent Alternate. Cumberland Valley RIAC voted to accept the application. **SIAC Chair Alexander** asked if there were any objections; there were none. **SIAC Chair Alexander** appointed Rebecca C. as the Cumberland Valley RIAC Parent Alternate.

Rhonda Logsdon, KY-SPIN, Ask of SIAC

- Request that each agency/organization add "Do you/ your child/ youth identify as someone with a disability" and "Do you/your child/ youth identify as LGBTQ+" to their optional self-identification area, along with racial and ethnic disclosure. Ms. Logsdon reported this is not for the purposes of determining if they meet the agency/organization eligibility criteria of disability, rather to gather data to address disparities and inequalities.
- SIAC to develop an action plan to amplify needs of behavioral health concerns with children and youth. Ms. Logsdon reported increased reports of behavior issues at school, and families are struggling. Ms. Logsdon said trauma, depression, loss, staffing issues, etc. are having major impacts, and though agencies have been working on this, she recommended exploring these issues with Social Emotional Health & Wellbeing and Disability Standing Committees. SIAC Chair Alexander suggested this be addressed by Service Array and requested an update on that workgroup. Dr. Robbins reported that group had been on hold due to an overlap with the Unnecessary Custody Relinquishment ad hoc committee; however, if there is an urgency, she will resume convening Service Array.

SECONDARY TRAUMATIC STRESS – BREAKTHROUGH SERIES COLLABORATIVE (STS – BSC)

Dr. Ginny Sprang, Executive Director of the University of Kentucky Center on Trauma and Children, provided an overview of STS-BSC, what it is trying to achieve, and how they are going about it. This project is in partnership with the Department for Behavioral Health, Developmental & Intellectual Disabilities through the System of Care FIVE grant. Dr. Sprang shared national and Kentucky data. Dr. Tena Robbins shared that teams from twelve Community Mental Health Centers and all regions of Department for Community Based Services (DCBS) have participated. Dr. Sprang reported the next session of Project ECHO, one-hour once weekly skill-building sessions, will launch in February. Contact Dr. Sprang if interested in joining STS-BSC.

SIAC MEMBER UPDATES

Ivanora Alexander, OCSHCN, reported they have offices in Paducah and Bowling Green; however, their buildings were not impacted so their services are continuing. Their Care Coordinators and Social Workers are reaching out to families of children with special health care needs in the affected areas to make sure they are receiving resources and medications. SIAC Chair Alexander referenced KIDS COUNT Data presented during the last SIAC meeting, specifically data around telehealth. SIAC Chair Alexander pointed out KIDS COUNT showed no increase in telehealth services for the Latinx population. OCSHCN has formed a workgroup to dive into their data around that. OCSHCN still has openings for Nurses, Audiologists, and Administrative Specialists; more information is available on the KY Personnel website.

Kelly Foster, Kentucky Department of Education (KDE), reported that KDE is focusing on helping their districts in western Kentucky dealing with the aftermath of the catastrophic tornado. KDE reached out to those superintendents on Saturday, and yesterday they had their regular scheduled monthly Superintendent Webcast. KDE is having another call on Thursday with the western KY superintendents directly impacted to hear needs, as the schools are resource hubs during crises. Dr. Foster reported yesterday there was a special email box set up for superintendents so that as they run across needs such as like food service, facilities, and transportation, they can email, and KDE will send to the appropriate person. [see *Meeting Handouts* for written update].

Vestena Robbins, Department for Behavioral Health, Developmental and Intellectual Disabilities (DBHDID), reported the primary focus has been supporting facilities and Community Mental Health Centers (CMHC) staff impacted by the devastation. Dr. Robbins reported per the Commissioner that they have been able to account for all CMHC and facility staff; however, unfortunately, many of them lost their homes. There was loss of life in at least in one of Supports for Community Living homes. Dr. Robbins provided an update about the 988 Implementation Planning Board; DBH submitted the implementation plan and received initial feedback. Dr. Robbins reported #Fund988KY is advocating for ways to sustainably fund 988. The next coalition is meeting January 10. Contact Beck Whipple for more information about 988. Dr. Robbins reported the U.S. Surgeon General issued an advisory “Protecting Youth Mental Health.” The Children’s Branch and the SOC FIVE System of Care grant staff are supporting Kentucky Partnership for Families and Children in implementing six regional Peer Support Centers that will conduct outreach and engagement services to help connect families to needed resources. For more information, Barb Green’s information will be in the written report. [see *Meeting Handouts* for written update].

Missy Brownson Ross, Council on Post-secondary Education (CPE), provided an example of the power of SIAC. CPE partnered with KHEAA and hosted a virtual parent night to provide information on financial aid. Due to the email forwarded by the SIAC Administrator, they connected with Sandra Powell with Anthem, who provided live Spanish translation. Ms. Brownson Ross stated this was the first time they have been able to do that. They will be using her services going forward. Ms. Brownson Ross stated, “Thank you for the opportunities that SIAC provides.”

Mavis Williamson, Administrative Office of the Courts (AOC), commended on the loss of the Graves County Courthouse. Ms. Williamson reported AOC has been working diligently to secure office space for staff impacted in western Kentucky.

Eboni Thompson, AOC, reported the Advanced Judicial Enhancement Symposium is coming up April 2022. The “Save the Date” is out, but registration is not available yet. More information will be provided as it become available.

William Heffron, Department of Juvenile Justice (DJJ), reported their Mayfield community office was totally destroyed, fortunately no one was injured. Dr. Heffron reported DJJ’s Mayfield facility had some roof damage and all the outbuildings are gone. Dr. Heffron reported none of the 8-10 youth nor the staff in the Mayfield facility were injured. DJJ transferred the youth to other places. One of their staff lost a brother at the Candle Factory. Dr. Heffron reported that because of the tornado devastation, DJJ has delayed some of their training until January. Dr. Heffron commended the actions of everyone working together and ensuring youth’s safety.

Judy Theriot, Department for Medicaid Services (DMS), reported the Managed Care Organizations are working to secure medications and medical equipment to those impacted by the tornadoes. Dr. Theriot reported special codes are in place so there would be no blocks at pharmacies. Dr. Theriot reported the 1115 waiver is still at CMS.

Callie Cartmell, Youth Representative, reported Four Rivers Behavioral Health’s Drop-In center, The Zone, is currently working on needs assessments for transition-age youth in the area after the storms this past weekend. The Zone is currently planning on providing a pop-up drop-in center at Kentucky Dam Village in order to provide the youth staying there who were displaced by the storms with an opportunity to get their minds off of things, connect with peer specialists, and access other resources and donations that they are gathering now. Four Rivers Behavioral Health is working on longer term plans as needs continue to come in, and will meet with their Youth Council this week in order to

plan youth-led outreach activities. Kentucky River is working to expand and organize their youth councils, including brainstorming with their youth to sustain the recent uptake in leadership and engagement. Youth MOVE's first Youth Advocate Leadership Academy is in January. So far, 37 people are registered. Youth MOVE will accept the first 20, and the remaining will attend the February Leadership Academy. Kentucky Youth MOVE members will begin receiving stipends for meeting attendance, as approved by the KPFC Board of Directors, in an effort to increase attendance and incentivize youth to become leaders. Kentucky Youth MOVE has received one new application, which will be reviewed and voted on by January 2022.

Denitta Mercier, Parent Representative, reported a RIAC Youth Representative is going to be featured in the SIAC Newsletter, sharing his lived experience and recovery story. Ms. Mercier reported the Pennyriple RIAC Parent and Youth Representatives are hosting a resource booth to reach youth and families served in their region. In November several parent and youth reps attended the National Federation for Families virtual conference. Ms. Mercier reported she and Sonny have been asked to attend a couple of committees in North and South Carolina and Washington state to provide a parent's perspective on what is and is not working for them. Ms. Mercier reported in November, there was a virtual Joint Meeting attended by 6 parents and 12 youth; the next Joint Meeting will be in April, and they are planning for an in person meeting at Natural Bridge State Park.

Rhonda Logsdon, KY-SPIN, Family Organization, reported she will be emailing tornado-specific information for families. Ms. Logsdon emphasized that KY-SPIN is available to assist with finding resources for families regardless of whether or not they have a disability. Ms. Logsdon reported they have a brief needs assessment for families re: where you live, where you have been relocated, what are the needs that are not being met.

Marta Miranda-Straub, Department for Community Based Services (DCBS), reported they have been able to track all staff, foster children, and foster parents. To their knowledge, there has been no loss of life, and they are now assessing for home loss. Ms. Miranda-Straub reported all hands on deck from the Cabinet for Health and Family Services regarding medicine, water, generators, satellite, and electricity. Ms. Miranda-Straub reported they are doing an incredible amount of collaboration with Behavioral Health and Public Health, as well as all of CHFS. Ms. Miranda-Straub said the best way to support our western Kentucky families is through the Governor's website, and the fund he has established. In addition to that, First Lady Beshear started a toy drive, and that information can also be found on the website.

Rob Ellis, Kentucky Housing Corporation (KHC), reported he will forward an E-gram KHC sent to all partners regarding KHC's initial response from a housing standpoint and partnering with FEMA for Western Kentucky relief. FEMA has simplified the process to ask for assistance. Mr. Ellis reported staff are available to help families with the application process. Mr. Ellis reported KHC does not administer the Section 8 Rental Assistance Program for Mayfield, but they have been in contact with the local housing agency that does. They are currently surveying and inventorying affordable properties in the western part of the state. Mr. Ellis stated the Section 8 waiting list for the Section 8 program administered by KHC for those 87 counties that do not have a local housing authority, will open on Monday, January 3, for one month. Mr. Ellis reported COVID Relief dollars are still available to assist with rental assistance; approximately \$90 million have been distributed to date.

Cora McNabb, Office of Vocational Rehabilitation (OVR), reported that all of their OVR staff are safe; some were impacted, but no loss of life. OVR is in the process of checking on the individuals that they serve.

FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

- LEAD KY Update – Carol Cecil, KPFC – January 2022
- SOC FIVE Year in Review – Dee Dee Ward, SOC FIVE Project Director – January 2022
- Recommendations from the Student Mental Health Action Summits – Heather Dearing and Lt. Gov. Office – Tentatively January 2022
- Tonya Stamper Meeks – advocacy work in Lexington – TBD – Callie Cartmell to send information to SIAC Administrator

PUBLIC COMMENT

Ivanora Alexander, SIAC Chair, asked for any public comment. Kerry Goodman, Family Peer Support Specialist with Kentucky Partnership for Families and Children (KPFC), reminded everyone that Peer Support Centers can be an additional resource for families. She shared in the chatbox a list of the KPFC Peer Support Centers in Kentucky. Lea Taylor will send the attachment in the SIAC follow-up email.

NEXT MEETING

Wednesday, January 26, 2022 | 2:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m. EST *Commissioner-level
Location: Zoom

ADJOURNMENT

Vestena Robbins made a motion to adjourn. **Denitta Mercier** – second to the motion. Motion carried.

SUMMARY OF ACTION ITEMS

TASK:	RESPONSIBLE PARTY:
Ensure your agency or organization is represented on each SIAC Standing Committee.	SIAC Members/Designees

IN ATTENDANCE

Members/Designees:

Ivanora Alexander, OCSHCN	Judy Theriot, DMS
Kristen Martin, DPH	Kelly Foster, KDE
Mavis Williamson, AOC	Vestena Robbins, DBHDID
Denitta Mercier, Parent Representative	William Heffron, DJJ
Marta Miranda-Straub, DCBS	Rob Ellis, KHC
Rhonda Logsdon, KY-SPIN	Eric Hawkins, SEJAY
Callie Cartmell, Youth Representative	Cora McNabb, OVR
Missy Brownson Ross, CPE	

Staff:

Lea Taylor, SIAC Administrator, DBHDID	Vanessa Brewer, RIAC Administrator, DBHDID
Lori Ramage, Administrative Specialist, DBHDID	

Guests: *See Attached Zoom Report*